

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
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R 120918Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3706
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 DUSSELDORF 1507

MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT GW
SUBJ: ANNUAL CONVENTION WESTPHALIAN CDU SOLIDLY BEHIND BIEDENKOPF

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
WESTPHALIAN/LIPPE CDU ON SEPTEMBER 2 IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT
BIEDENKOPF HAS ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS THE UNDISPUTED LEADER
AND IS IN FULL CONTROL OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE CONVENTION
ADOPTED HIS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL CDU
PROGRAM WITH GREAT UNANIMITY. THE AMENDMENT DEALT LARGELY
WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC QUESTIONS UNDER THE HEADING OF THE
BURDEN-SHARING BETWEEN GENERATIONS. BIEDENKOPF INTENDS TO
CONTINUE HIS CAMPAIGN OF STORMING THE RED CITY HALLS IN
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THE RUHR. HE SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE FEDERAL COALITION
GOVERNMENT AND CALLED IT INCAPABLE TO RUN THE COUNTRY.
HOWEVER, HE DID NOT REVEAL WHETHER HIS OWN POLITICAL
PLANS ARE TO AIM AT BONN OR DUESSELDORF. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CDU DISTRICT ORGANIZATION WESTFALEN-LIPPE
CONVENED 421 DELEGATES ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1978,

REPRESENTING 125,000 MEMBERS IN OLSBERG/SAUERLAND FOR ITS 34TH ANNUAL CONVENTION. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION WAS THE PASSAGE OF AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT PROGRAM OF THE FEDERAL CDU. ITS MAIN EFFECT WAS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT ITS NEW DISTRICT CHAIRMAN, DR. KURT BIEDENKOPF, IS FULLY IN CONTROL OF HIS DISTRICT. THIS BECAME EVIDENT NOT ONLY IN THE UNANIMOUS ACCEPTANCE FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE OF THE CONVENTION, BUT THE ALMOST TOTAL ABSENCE OF DISSENT FROM PROPOSALS BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT PROGRAM OF BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH THE FEDERAL CDU ORGANIZATION HAD DEVELOPED (THE GRUNDSATZPROGRAMM, TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE CDU CONVENTION IN LUDWIGSHAFEN IN LATE OCTOBER).

3. THE AMENDMENTS BORE THE UNMISTAKEABLE STAMP OF BIEDENKOPF AND EMPHASIZED HIS CONCEPT OF THE INTERPLAY OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS (GENERATIONSVERTRAG). TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE LABOR WING, BIEDENKOPF HAD TO ACCEPT SOME MODIFICATION OF HIS ORIGINAL PROPOSALS, E.G. BY REINTRODUCING PENSIONS BASED ON GROSS WAGES.

4. THE PROGRAM PROPOSALS AS ADOPTED ARE DESIGNED TO INITIATE A POPULATION AND FAMILY POLICY WHICH IS TO ENABLE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO FINANCE SOCIAL SECURITY
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OF THE PRESENTLY WORKING POPULATION. THE WORK OF HOUSEWIVES AND MOTHERS IS TO BE RECOGNISED THE SAME AS THAT OF OTHER WORKING PERSONS. A MERE PARTNER PENSION IS NOT ENOUGH. HOUSEWIVES AND MOTHERS MUST BE GIVEN AN INDEPENDENT INCOME AND PENSION. SMALL MEDICAL EXPENSES SHOULD BE BORNE BY THE INSURED TO LOWER MEDICAL INSURANCE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

5. IN HIS BUSINESS REPORT BIEDENKOPF ANNOUNCED A NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AIMED AT LABOR AND FOUND ENCOURAGEMENT IN EXCELLENT CDU RESULTS IN RECENT WORKS COUNCIL ELECTIONS. THE CDU, HE SAID, MUST COUNTERACT ITS IMAGE AS AN ENTREPRENEURS PARTY; AFTER ALL, TWO THIRDS OF ALL INVESTMENTS WERE FINANCED BY SAVERS AND NOT BY STOCKHOLDERS.

6. THE NEW SELF-CONFIDENCE OF THE CDU, ACCORDING TO BIEDENKOPF, WILL BE DEMONSTRATED BY A CONTINUATION OF THE CDU CAMPAIGN AGAINST COLLUSION AND OFFICE ACCUMULATION (FILZOKRATIE) OF THE SPD IN THE RUHR. THE CDU WILL RUN ITS OWN CANDIDATES FOR MAYORS TO CAPTURE THE RED (SPD) CITY HALLS AND TO DEMONSTRATE

IN PUBLIC DEBATES THAT FILZOKRATIE IS A MAJOR OBSTACLE
TO POLITICAL CHANGE AND REFORM.

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MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS

7. BIEDENKOPF REPEATED HIS SHARP CRITICISM OF WEST
GERMAN RADIO AND TV (WDR). HE ANNOUNCED AN INCREASED
CDU VIGILANCE ON THE LOCQL LEVEL TO ASSURE POLITICALLY
BALANCED PROGRAMS. HE NOTED THAT RADIO AND TV HAVE
A SPECIAL STATUS AMONG THE MEDIA AND HAVE VIRTUAL
MONOPOLIES IN THEIR FIELDS, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE
CURRENT POLITICAL ONESIDEDNESS BE COUNTERACTED BY
PERMITTING PRIVATE TV STATIONS OR NETWORKS.

8. WITH REGARD TO THE PAY ROLL TAX CONTROVERSY
BIEDENKOPF TOOK THE BONN GOVERNMENT COALITION TO TASK
FOR ADOPTING A POLICY WHICH THEY CANNOT POLITICALLY
IMPLEMENT; HE CALLED THIS A SORRY EXAMPLE OF THE
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GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO RUN THE COUNTRY AND ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO THINK BEYOND THE NEXT ELECTION. (NOTE: BIEDENKOPF ADVOCATES THE ABOLITION OF THE TAX). HE DESCRIBED THE GROWING COST OF SOCIAL INSURANCE AND RISING INDEBTEDNESS AS PRESENTING AN INTOLERABLE BURDEN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS (AGAIN NUMEROUS REFERENCES TO THE GENERATIONSVERTRAG), UNLESS THE TREND WERE REVERSED BY A CDU GOVERNMENT.

9. BIEDENKOPF ALLUDED TO THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND WAS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT FORMER CDU CHAIRMAN DR. RAINER BARZEL HAS BEEN WON A CANDIDATE (IN A BRIEF ADDRESS BARZEL WARNED AGAINST A LEFTIST POPULAR FRONT IN EUROPE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SPD CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT).

10. THE CONVENTION WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY CDU SECRETARY GENERAL GEISSLER, WHO IN A BRIEF SPEECH EMPHASIZED THE ROLE OF THE CDU AS A LABOR PARTY AND STRESSED THAT THE UNITY OF THE PARTY MADE A FOURTH PARTY UNNECESSARY. HE NOTED THAT THE DANGER FOR DEMOCRACY CAME RATHER FROM LEFTISTS THAN IMAGINARY RIGHTISTS. ALLUDING TO RECENT ESPIONAGE CASES GEISSLER DECLARED THAT THE CDU SUSPECTED NOBODY BUT WANTS A RAPID INVESTIGATION OF THE AFFAIR. HE ACCUSED EGON BAHR, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL SPD OF HAVING ACTED ILLEGALLY BY INFORMING HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANT, BOUDRE-GROEGER, ABOUT INCIPIENT INVESTIGATIONS BY THE FEDERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL.

11. COMMENTS: AFTER LITTLE MORE THAN ONE YEAR IN OFFICE, BIEDENKOPF DEMONSTRATED IMPRESSIVELY THAT HE ENJOYS THE FULL SUPPORT OF HIS ORGANIZATION THANKS TO HIS LEADERSHIP ABILITIES AND TACTICAL SKILL. HE IS IN FULL CONTROL
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OF THE ORGANIZATION BUT AFTER THIS CONVENTION NOBODY IS ANY THE WISER, ALSO WITHIN THE PARTY, WHAT BIEDENKOPF IS PLANNING FOR HIS OWN POLITICAL FUTURE. HIS FOCAL ATTENTION TO THE FEDERAL PARTY PROGRAM WOULD INDICATE THAT HE WOULD PREFER BONN RATHER THAN DUESSELDORF AS HIS POLITICAL STAGE, FOR WHICH THE SOLID SUPPORT OF THE WESTPHALIAN/LIPPE CDU IS AN INVALUABLE ASSET. IN ADDITION HE HAS BEEN ASSURED OF THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AND POSSIBLY HESSE SUPPORT FOR HIS PROGRAM AMENDMENTS. HOWEVER, THE ROAD TO BONN MAY LEAD THROUGH DUESSELDORF, IF HE CAN CONVINCE BOTH SECTIONS OF THE NRW/CDU (RHINELAND AS WELL AS WESTFALEN-LIPPE) THAT HE WOULD

BE A STRONGER CANDIDATE THAN KOEPPLER IN THE 1980
LANDTAG ELECTIONS.DUX

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